

# Wisconsin Governor's Council for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing

## MEETING MINUTES

September 15 2017

10:00AM

Room 751

1 W. Wilson Street, Madison, WI 53703

<https://livestream.com/DHSWebcast/events/7040238>

**Members present:** Nicole Everson (Chair), Denise Johnson (Vice Chair), Tom O'Connor (Secretary), Steve Smart, Karl Nollenberger, David Seligman and Lisa Woods

**Members not present:** Michelle Cordova

**Ex-Officio members:** Billy Mauldin

**Office for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (ODHH) Staff:** Jennifer Anderson, Nancy Harbison (for Amber Mullett) and Kathleen Steele (BADR Office Manager)

**Sign Language Interpreters:** Chantel Wiedmeyer and Carly Bieri

**Communication Access Real-Time Translation (CART) Service Provider:** Margo Lucas

**Technical Assistance and Livestream Technician:** Dustin Mullett

**Chair called the meeting to order at 10:02 AM**

**Approval of the September 15, 2017 Agenda:**

**Motion:** Nicole Everson motioned the following amendments to the: Agenda, Elections, Welcome, and Minutes. Discussion and Denise Johnson made suggestion to Amendment Agenda, Welcome, Elections, and Minutes.

**Motion:** Karl Nollenberger motioned to approve the agenda as amended. (Tom O'Connor seconded).

**Passed:** unanimously.

**Elections:**

**Discussion:** Denise Johnson can't be Vice Chair because she has reached her term limits. Nicole Everson would like to step back from Chair position. There is some questions about members who might be eligible for elections but do not have their

appointment letters. Nicole Everson and Karl Nollenberger do not have their appointment letters.

**Motion:** Denise Johnson motioned was made to suspend elections until December 2017 so that appointments can be solidified and members can vote with a full field of candidates. Karl Nollenberger seconded.

**Passed:** unanimously.

Denise Johnson will be Chair for the rest of today's meeting

**Discussion:** Denise Johnson suggested that the format of the minutes be changed, she likes how the disability council lists actions on the front and she would like to use this format.

Steve Smart thinks this is a good idea we will know what has been completed and know what we have left to do. This format will also emphasize what the actions are needed to be taken. Motions also need to be highlighted as well. Denise will show her example to Mason

**Discussion** on why the public comments are closed and including about when comments should be made: Either in the morning or in the afternoon but also whether the comments should be allowed throughout the meeting. We will need some directions from the DHS Department and how to respond to comments or questions during a council meeting.

**Motion:** Steve Smart motioned that there should be open public comments. Nicole Everson seconded.

**Passed:** Unanimously

**Amendment:** Nicole motioned an amendment that public comments should be open all day but Council will not respond. Tom O'Connor seconded amendment.

**Passed:** Unanimously

**Discussion:** Steve Smart wanted to know what DHS's policy is on addressing public comments on live stream and clarify on whether or not we answer what questions we can, thank for comments, write down suggestions and put on the agenda those questions that we can't answer right away and put those on agenda for next meeting Public expects response so we need to explain why there isn't there is no ability to answer the public comments.

Time for public comments can be added to the agenda but needs to be stated in the public meeting notice and put on the agenda. These periods must be determined at least 10 days before the meeting.

Nicole Everson: wants to know DHS's protocol's for answering questions. Can they put the questions and answers on the web page?

**Motion:** Steve Smart motioned that the council talk with Department Health Service (DHS) and clarify when public comments are happening and what to do when those comments are happening. David Seligman seconded.

There was some additional discussion on whether or not the council would like to withdraw the motion until they find out what DHS's policy is. David Seligman wants to keep his motion to second to put this on record.

Council decided to add a session in morning and session in afternoon: 15 min in a.m. ½ hour in p.m. to the next agenda.

### **Approval of the March 10, 2017 Minutes:**

Denise Johnson noted that the March 10, minutes had already been approved so they don't have to be approved again. She will talk to Mason about taking the Draft off the form.

### **Approval of the May 12, 2017 Minutes:**

Review of the May 12<sup>th</sup> minutes with some minor discussions.

Motion: David Seligman motioned to accept the minutes with Karl Nollenberger seconded.

Passed: Unanimously

**Community updates:** Tom O'Connor said that the Hearing Loss Association of America (HLAA) and the Wisconsin Association of the Deaf (WAD) sponsored a Legislative Deaf day. There were between 100 and 120 attendees making it quite a success. The legislators seemed really interested in the concerns of the community and responded well to the use of CART. One of HLAA's primary concerns that they put forth was the use of hearing loops in public spaces as well as the use of CART for state-sponsored events. WAD urged the legislators to consider communication access for the Deaf and hard of hearing and also the effect that hearing loss has on the Deaf and hard of hearing communities.

**ODHH Updates:** Amber Mullett talked about the 1st round of interviews for the new supervisor positions for BADR and how these new supervisors will fit into the structure for the new Office for Physical Disabilities and Independent Living (OPIL).

Amber was asked who was on the interview panel: Members of current BADR Office Directors. The 2<sup>nd</sup> round of interviews has not yet been scheduled as they are still doing 1<sup>st</sup> round interviews. Nicole Everson asked to be a part of this panel.

Amber recognized Nancy Harbison who will be retiring on September 22, 2017. There will be a message on her answering machine and email. Amber and Bette Mentz-Powell will triage calls and emails.

The Aging and Disability Conference which was held on September 7 & 8, 2017 was described. The conference was the first to combine topics from Aging, Aging and Disability Resource Centers and Disability. The SCAN organization gave Wisconsin one of four awards for being one of four states that have shown the greatest improvement with Long Term Care initiatives. The award was accepted by Governor Walker on the 1<sup>st</sup> day of the conference.

Amber talked about a public letter from the Wisconsin Association of Deaf and Wisconsin Association of Interpreters. The council had questions about the Office's position about the WI ACT 360 and the change from a testing procedure and a self-certification procedure for licensing interpreters through the Department of Safety and Professional Services (DSPS).

*Something about a survey and a study and a training that could happen in the spring*

*Review the current proposals regarding an exam board that enforces, creates rules and certifies interpreters.*

*DHS administers the board and involved in the examinations.*

The Division of Care and Treatment Services is meeting with ODHHS and are talking about integrating services with mental health. The group is looking at the barriers to change and the council also recommends that Department of Public Instruction (DPI) and the DSPS to make sure that all the pieces of the issues are accounted for. The council would also like to have more presence and participation with these meetings.

Amber showed the council the Strategic Plan Map for OPIL which lists more listening sessions as one of the activities. The information from these listening sessions will aid the office and council as it determines goals and projects.

**Eric Grosso gave a demographic presentation** the presentation reviewed the demographics of those who are deaf and hard of hearing in Wisconsin.

**Break for lunch at 12:28 p.m. and returning at 12:58 p.m.**

**Old Business:**

Commission for the Deaf, Deaf Blind, and Hard of Hearing: Tom O'Connor was invited to this hearing. There were concerns that the Commission was focusing only on hearing issues and didn't include deaf-blind. There was also discussion about replacing the Council because they don't think the council gets things done. Steve noted that there was a feeling of being underserved and that the council could provide information and feedback. David noted that it might be that the commission doesn't have a good idea of how government works and the differences between (Legislative Reference Bureau) LRB motions and other bills. But that one thing that seems to be missing from suggested plans is staffing. The lack of staff at ODHH makes it difficult to do things like investigating allegations. One solution would be to increase ODHH staff rather than starting over with a new council.

There needs to be some education for the Commission on where the resources are and how monies are being spent and perhaps letting the Council meet with them to find out why they want to start over.

Bylaw Discussion: Denise reported that she talked to the Committee for People with Disabilities and has found that they do not have to have public input for changing their by-laws. We need to have DHS provide us with guidelines. The council does need to post what we decide. If the Council wants to change their name, they will need to write a letter to ODHH who will move the request through the department.

Nicole also reported that meeting minutes is a record of what was done and not a transcription of the meeting. The minutes should not reflect opinion of anything said or done at the meeting. Neither can the CART stream be considered notes because CART is provided as an accommodation and can't be used as a record.

Nicole is not sure what the protocols are for saving the Livestream transmission to be used as a record

Questions from May 12, 2017 meeting from Livestream were reviewed.

Lisa Wood reported that she has talked to other states about their council webpages and suggests that a subcommittee be formed to talk about a new design for the council webpage. The council will talk to Amber and Mason about what would be required if the council wanted to use AODA to design the web page.

Public Relations (PR). The goal should be to have a more transparent and open meeting. Recording training should include video with captions, voice over.

There was a discussion about the differences between YouTube? and Facebook video.

There was discussion about position announcements in ODHH (OPIL), that the announcements need to be more open and that the timelines/deadlines from the 1<sup>st</sup> posting.

Ask Amber to give a presentation on the new organizational structure for ODHH/OPIL.

Vote on the bylaws is moved to December meeting.

There was a letter from Amber and David suggests that we add activation of T-Coils in it. There is an assumption of T-Coils in all newer moderate to expensive hearing aids, but they are not in the over-the-counter hearing aids.

ODHH / OPIL should have a role in informing and educating and advancing the notion that the best practice should be activation of T-Coils.

## **New Business**

Stephanie Zito gave a presentation about setting up a Facebook page for the Council. The council needs to decide if they want to set up as a “group” or “page”. There are tradeoffs for each type of page.

There is a need to have a monitor for the page that will update and police the page. Steve Smart noted that ODHH / OPIL to do this. The council will need to talk to Amber about this.

David Seligman also wondered where Facebook is going to be in 3 years. Facebook is always adding new features such as adding Live Stream and putting in captioning.

There is an option to boost the page to make it more widespread. There is a cost associated with this: \$5.00. There is also a \$25.00 fee to be able to choose advertising.

Steve Smart noted that the issue of Video Remote Interpreting (VRI) in hospitals has become a hot topic.

Tom and David attended the HLAA conference in Denver. They noted that they attended a very good presentation on Disaster Preparedness and noted that other states are way ahead of Wisconsin with accommodations such as hearing loops.

**Motion:** Steve motioned that a special meeting be set up with ODHH / OPIL to talk about LRB220. David seconded.

**Passed:** unanimously

## **Announcements**

**Next Meeting Agenda:** Denise Johnson suggested that the Council consider having someone come to talk about transparency. Nicole Everson advised that Amber Mullett and Lisa Woods be approached to ask about potential speakers. Steve Smart also suggested that the Council add an agenda item to discuss the strategic plan updates, each carrying their own action item.

**Motion:** Denise Johnson moves to adjourn the meeting. Tom O'Connor seconded the motion.

**Passed:** unanimously

**Meeting adjourned at 4:11 p.m.**

**Public Comments:**

Questions from Eric's presentation:

Katy Schmidt

How can you ascertain the accuracy of this data- survey was done in English- Many deaf people do not have great handle of English language and the census probably end up in the trash?

Jeff Holub

- Why not ask DPI for database on public school and State School on deaf, HH, Colored, native, deaf blind,
  - 
  - Katy Schmidt
  -
- Is Council going to address the VRI issues which is currently a hot issues

Katy Schmidt

Livestream was down so i hope I can get my question in

Katy Schmidt

Does the ODHH council have any position about the use of VRI?